

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 KINGST 02215 051526Z

50

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

NIC-01 RSR-01 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 INT-08

/154 W

----- 000381

P R 051400Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2289

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

CINCLANT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINGSTON 2215

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, JM

SUBJECT: JULY 3 BY-ELECTIONS

SUMMARY

1. IN THE TWO JULY 3 BY-ELECTIONS, CALLED TO FILL THE VACANCIES IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CREATED BY THE RESIGNATIONS OF TWO PNP STALWARTS -THE PRESENT GOVERNOR- GENERAL, FLORIZEL GLASSPOLE, AND THE FORMER MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION, WILLS O. ISAACS - THE VOTER TURNOUT WAS LOWER, BUT THE VOTE WAS SPLIT INTO VERY NEARLY THE SAME PERCENTAGES AS IN THE 1972 GENERAL ELECTION IN THOSE CONSTITUENCIES. END SUMMARY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 KINGST 02215 051526Z

2. EAST KINGSTON. THE VERY POPULAR FORMER PNP MAYOR OF KINGSTON ELI MATLALON, WON HIS CONSTITUENCY HANDILY, POLLING 4150 VOTES (1972 PNP: 6220), WHILE HIS JLP OPPONENT POLLED ONLY 1425 (1972: 1861). IN PERCENTAGE TERMS, THE RETURNS VARIED LITTLE FROM LAST YEAR WITH THE PNP CANDIDATE GARNERING SOME 74.4 0/0 (77 0/0 IN 1972) AND THE JLP CANDIDATE GAINING 25.6 0/0 (23 0/0 IN 1972). THERE WAS, HOWEVER, A DRAMATIC DROP IN THE TOTAL POPULAR VOTE CAST FOR THE TWO PARTIES FROM 8081 IN 1972 TO 5575 IN 1973. (THE MINOR PARTY VOTE WAS NEGLIGIBLE IN BOTH YEARS - 60 IN 1972 AND 12 IN 1973.) MATALON PREDICTED THAT THERE MIGHT BE A SHARP FALLOFF IN THE VOTER TURNOUT THIS YEAR ON ACCOUNT OF THE HIGH "REMOVAL" RATE IN THE CONSTITUENCY. THAT IS, OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTERED VOTERS, SOME 35-45 0/0 HAD MOVED OUT OF THE CONSTITUENCY SINCE THE LAST ELECTION. IT IS ALSO DUE, OF COURSE, TO THE GENERALLY LOWER POPULAR INTEREST IN OFF-YEAR ELECTIONS.

3. NORTH EAST ST. ANN. AGAIN THE PNP CANDIDATE PERFORMED JUST ABOUT THE SAME AS LAST YEAR. HAZEL HAMILTON, THE LONG-TIME CAMPAIGN MANAGER AND LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE FORMER MEMBER, WILLS ISAACS, POLLED 5798 VOTES (1972: 6421). HER JLP OPPONENT, BITU ASSISTANT ISLAND SUPERVISOR PEARNEL CHARLES, POLLED 3038 VOTES (1972: 3552). IN CONTRAST TO EAST KINGSTON, THE PNP SLIGHTLY IMPROVED ITS PERFORMANCE IN PERCENTAGE TERMS WITH 65.6 0/0 AS OPPOSED TO 64.4 0/0 IN 1972. THE JLP CANDIDATE POLLED 34.4 0/0 AGAINST 35.6 0/0 IN 1972. THE POPULAR VOTE DECLINED ALSO IN ST. ANN FROM 9973 IN 1972 TO 8836 IN 1973. THE 1973 VOTE TOTALS HAVE NOT YET BEEN CERTIFIED BY THE ELECTORAL OFFICE.

4. BOTH ELECTION CAMPAIGNS WERE MARKED BY INCIDENTS OF SMALL SCALE AND PETTY VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT OF OPPOSITION HEADQUARTERS AND SUPPORTERS. ELEMENTS OF THE JDF WERE DEPLOYED TO ST. ANN IN ORDER TO HEAD OFF INCIDENTS, BUT THEY OCCURRED, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 KINGST 02215 051526Z

NEVERTHELESS. THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE DID NOT APPROACH THAT OF THE 1972 CAMPAIGN AND ELECTION, HOWEVER, AND THE RESULTS OF THE ELCTIONS HAVE NOT, THUS FAR, BEEN CONTESTED.

5. COMMENT: WHILE THESE ELECTIONS TOOK PLACE IN TWO LONG-TIME PNP STRONGHOLDS, FEW OBSERVERS EXPECTED THE PNP TO DO QUITE SO WELL. IF ANYTHING, MOST OBSERVERS IN

KINGSTON ANTICIPATED THAT THE PNP WOULD SUFFER THE BY-ELECTION DOLDRUMS AND NOT BE ABLE TO DRAW THE PERCENTAGES IT HAD IN 1972. SOME OBSERVERS WERE EVEN PREDICTING THAT THE ELECTION RESULTS WOULD DEMONSTRATE WHAT IS FELT TO BE WIDESPREAD DISSATISFACTION WITH THE MANNER IN WHICH THE MANLEY GOVERNMENT IS COPING WITH THE NATION'S PROBLEMS. THIS WAS NOT SO, HOWEVER. THE JLP WILL MOST CERTAINLY NOT BE ABLE TO CLAIM THAT THE ELECTION RESULTS DEMONSTRATE A LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT. IF ANYTHING, THE MINIMAL PERCENTAGE LOSS IN EAST KINGSTON, COUPLED WITH THE SLIGHT GAIN IN NORTHEAST ST. ANN WILL ALLOW THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE PNP TO CLAIM THAT THE ELECTION WAS A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES, AN ISSUE ON WHICH THEY BASED A GOOD DEAL OF THEIR CAMPAIGN

6. IN THE NEAR TERM, US INTERESTS WILL NOT BE MATERIALLY AFFECTED BY THE ELCTION RESULT. PRIME MINISTER MANLEY IS NOW STRONGER, HOWEVER, AND HIS MANDATE MORE SECURE THAN EVER. HIS HAND HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED SHOULD HE DECIDE THAT THE TIME HAS COME TO INCREASE GOVERNMENT CONTROLS ON FOREIGN CAPITAL, MOVE AT A FASTER PACE IN HIS RELATIONS WITH THE THIRD WORLD AND COMMUNIST NATIONS, OR TAKE UP THE BAUXITE ISSUE IN EARNEST. DE ROULET

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973KINGST02215
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: KINGSTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730754/aaaabnld.tel
Line Count: 141
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30-Jul-2001 by kellew0>; APPROVED <23-Aug-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JULY 3 BY-ELECTIONS SUMMARY
TAGS: PINT, JM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005